

c.) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (New) A system for preventing concealment of contraband in a bed formed of a mattress resting on a supporting structure, including:

said mattress including an outer cover, said outer cover comprising top and bottom panels formed of a transparent sheet material and sealed in airtight fashion to define at least one air bladder;

said at least one air bladder being supported generally horizontally on said supporting structure and being inflatable to support a human body;

said transparent sheet material permitting visualization of any object in said mattress and directly under said mattress, whereby contraband objects cannot be concealed in said bed.

Claim 17. (New) A system for preventing concealment of contraband in a bed formed of a mattress resting on a supporting structure, including:

said mattress including an outer cover, said outer cover including top and bottom panels formed of a transparent sheet material and joined together to define an enclosed envelope;

said enclosed envelope being supported generally horizontally on said supporting structure and including a resilient core therein to support a human body;

said transparent sheet material permitting visualization of any object in said mattress, whereby contraband objects cannot be concealed in said mattress.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~mattress construction~~ system of claim 16, wherein said transparent sheet material is formed of a high strength flexible polymer.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~mattress construction~~ system of claim 5, where said flexible polymer comprises polyvinyl chloride.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~mattress construction~~ system of claim 6, wherein said transparent sheet material is about 24 mils thick.

Claims 8-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The ~~mattress construction~~ system of claim 9 ~~16~~, wherein said plurality of components include top and bottom panels having matching perimeter edge configurations, and a sidewall extending between said top and bottom panels and having top and bottom edges joined to said matching perimeter edge configurations in continuous fashion to define therewith an enclosed envelope.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~mattress construction~~ system of claim ~~11~~ 12, further including interior support features within said pressure-retaining enclosed envelope, said interior support features being formed of transparent material.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~mattress construction~~ system of claim ~~8~~ 17, wherein said resilient ~~fill-material~~ core is selected to be one or more of the following: natural fiber, cotton batting, polyester batting, expanded foam material, air or water bladders.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~mattress construction~~ system of claim 15, wherein said transparent sheet material has a thickness ranging between 4 mils to 50 mils.